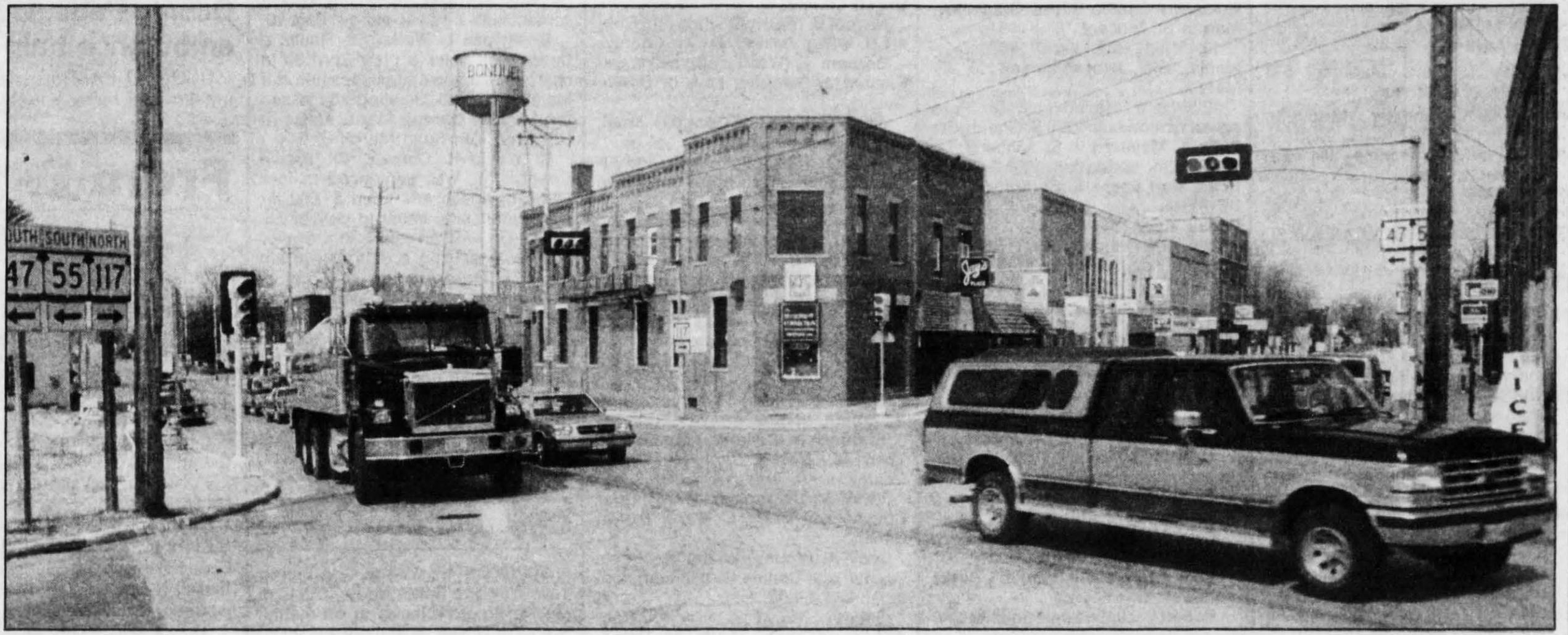

Main drag: The Bonduel water tower is a dominant feature of the Shawano County community's skyline. This view is from the intersection of Cecil and Green Bay streets. Traffic is expected to decrease at the intersection after a State Highway 29 bypass is built.

Motorists soon will miss out on friendly Bonduel

By Gary Dodge
Press-Gazette

BONDUEL — The roar of semitrailer trucks and the constant sound of heavy traffic on State Highway 29 through Bonduel may be a memory in another two years.

That's because a southern bypass is planned around this Shawano County community in two years, Village Clerk Wilma Zernicke said.

Press-Gazette photos by Ken Wesely

"We have a tremendous amount of traffic," Zernicke said.

It gets especially busy on the weekends, because Highway 29 is the main east-west route in this part of Wisconsin.

The bypass, however, will not affect the village's economy too much, since 90 percent of the motorists are through-traffic, said Zernicke, who has been clerk for 15 years.

"People that want to stop will stop" to patronize businesses, she said.

Of those motorists who stop, many fill their gasoline tanks and some get a bite to eat, Zernicke said.

Some are stopped by the village's two-man police force.

For the most part, law enforcement centers on traffic violations, said Police Chief Jim Tinlin.

But for most motorists who pass through this town without even a quick glance, they're missing out on getting to know a friendly community, Village President Donald Karolus said.

The 1,160 people are conservative, hardworking and dedicated, said Karolus, 58, village president for 17 years.

"They will do anything for the village," Karolus said. "The people really work together in the community."

Service clubs always are holding activities and fund-raisers that benefit the village, he said.

Many people who live in the community work in Green Bay, Appleton or Shawano, Karolus said.

But Vlasic Foods Inc., also employs about 120 permanent full-time workers and 300 seasonal workers, Karolus said.

Other companies providing job opportunities are Tischler Plastics, Equity Livestock yards and several small businesses, he said.

Homeowners also take pride in their properties, which is evident during the summer, Zernicke said.

Travelers have mentioned that the village looks like a big, clean park, she said.

People gather at the Fourth of July parade and the Lions corn roast held every August, Karolus said.

Religion also is important to Bonduel residents.

The community was founded about 150 years ago by a Catholic priest — Father

Please see **Bonduel/B-2**

People & Places
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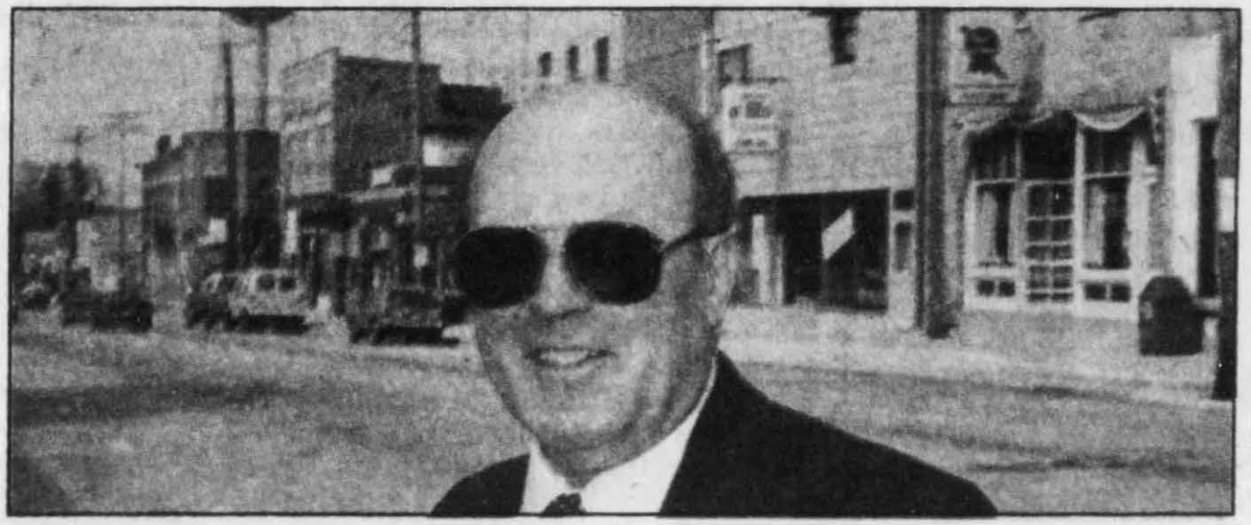
Aerial view: Wilma Zernicke, Bonduel village clerk, shows an aerial photo of the community.

The enforcer: Jim Tinlin serves as police chief for Bonduel's population of 1,160 people.



Village leader: Donald Karolus stands along Green Bay Street in Bonduel. Karolus has been village president for 17 years.

The Bonduel file

- **Population:** 1,160 (estimated by village President Donald Karolus)
- **Churches:** St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Frieden's Lutheran Church and the United Methodist Church.
- **Public school enrollment:** 788 students in kindergarten through grade 12.

☐ Bonduel

Bonduel — but no Catholic churches are here.

People attend St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Frieden's Lutheran Church or the United Methodist Church, he said.

The Bonduel School District also serves as a focal point for the village as well as for the surrounding eight towns and the village of Cecil that have students in the system, said Superintendent Peter Behnke.

"It's true in all small communities that the school is the focal point," he said.

The school is open most every evening for community- and school-sponsored activities, Behnke said.

"The community takes a lot of pride in its school," he said.

■ **Next week:** Washington Island in Door County